if so, the meaning of this 'Cross mark; and

by when it would be removed keeping in view the resentment of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not substituted Mahatma Gandhi's picture with cross mark on Two Rupee coin. The Government decided in 2005 to issue Re. 1 & Rs. 2 coins with the theme "Unity in Diversity' symbolised by the arithmetical sign "Plus" which denotes "inclusiveness".

(c) The themes on coins are periodically changed. The Rs. 2/- coin is now being minted with a new theme "Nritya Mudra" since June, 2007.

High Rate of Taxation in India

tl914. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there is huge disparity in respect of taxation of companies and individuals under the taxation system in India;

if so, the details thereof;

whether it is also a fact that Indian citizen pay taxes to Government at much higher rates in comparison to the citizens of other developed and developing countries of the world; and

if so, the details thereof and the reasons of higher tax rates in comparison to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Corporate income-tax rate and the maximum marginal rate for personal income tax are at the same rate of 30 per cent.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The personal income tax rates in India, being progressive and moderate, are comparable with international tax rates.

"Maximum Limit for Investment in Monthly Income Scheme"

1915. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE."be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the maximum limit for investment in the Monthly Income Scheme being run through Post Offices has been enhanced from Rs. 3 lakh to 4.5 lakh for a single investor;

if so, whether Government would also consider to increase limits under Post Office Savings Bank Account and other postal schemes;

if so, the details thereof, scheme-wise and the likely date from which the same would be applicable; and

f Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.